England - Parliament. - H. of L. [Proceedings - II.]

THE HUMBLE

ADDRESS

OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

The Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

in Parliament assembled,

PRESENTED TO

HIS MAJESTY,

On *Friday*, *November* 27, 1778.

WITH

HIS MAJESTY'S

MOST GRACIOUS

ANSWER.

LONDON:
Printed by CHARLES EYRE and WILLIAM STRAHAN,
Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1778.

Die Veneris, 27° *Novembris*, 1778.

ORdered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament aſſembled, That the Addreſs of this Houſe, preſented to His Majeſty this Day, and His Majeſty's moſt Gracious Anſwer thereunto, be forthwith printed, and publiſhed.

Aſhley Cowper,

Cler' Parliamentor'.

The Humble ADDRESS of the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled.

Die Jovis, 26° Novembris, 1778.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg Leave to return Your Majesty our humble Thanks for Your most Gracious Speech from the Throne.

WE have the strongest Sense of the Importance of those Objects which render the present Conjuncture worthy of the most serious Attention.

THE Disturbance of the publick Tranquillity by the Court of *France*, without Pretence of Provocation or Colour of Complaint, the clandestine Assistance, the avowed Support, the formal Engagements which, at different Periods, that Court has not thought it inconsistent with its Honour, to afford to Your Majesty's revolted Subjects in *North America*, and to conclude with the Leaders of Rebellion, excite in our Breasts, a just Abhorrence of the Violation of every publick Principle which such a Conduct manifests, and a Determination to concur in every Measure, which may enable Your Majesty to resent with Effect, the Hostilities committed on Your faithful Subjects, and the actual Invasion of Your Majesty's Dominions in *America* and the *West Indies*.

WE beg Leave to express our grateful Sense of the tender Concern for the Happiness of Your People, which has uniformly induced Your Majesty to endeavour to prevent the Calamities of War, and will make Your Majesty desirous to see the Return of Peace, whenever it can be effected with perfect Honour and with Security to the Rights of this Country.

AT the same Time we return Your Majesty our dutiful Thanks for Your great Care in taking the proper and necessary Measures for disappointing the malignant Designs of our Enemies, and also for making general Reprisals, and for the Protection which has been derived from the Vigilance of Your Majesty's Fleets to our extensive Commerce, in most of its Branches, while that of the Enemy has materially suffered by

the active and enterprizing Spirit of our Fellow Subjects: And we hope, although Your Majesty's Efforts have not hitherto been attended with all the Success, which the Justice of our Cause and the Vigour of our Exertions seemed to promise, that Consequences more adequate to both may result from the animated Execution of firm and active Councils, which the Time requires, and with which the spirited Perseverance of the *British* Nation has so often surmounted the greatest Difficulties.

It is with Concern we learn, that the conciliatory Measures of Parliament have not yet had the good Effect with Your Majesty's revolted Subjects, which was due to the Wisdom and Temper with which they were planned.

In this Situation of Affairs, fully sensible that the national Honour and Security loudly calls for the most active Exertions, we will strenuously concur in supporting Your Majesty, that, under the Blessing of God, Means may be derived from the Conduct and Intrepidity of Your Majesty's Officers and Forces, by Sea and Land, and the yet undaunted Spirit of the Nation, to vindicate and maintain the Honour of the Crown, and the Interests of the People of *Great Britain*.

We return Your Majesty our cordial Acknowledgements for having called forth the Militia, to assist in the interior Defence of this Country; and it is with Joy and Exultation we hear the gracious Testimony Your Majesty is pleased to bear to the publick Spirit, the steady Ardour, and the Love of their Country, which animate that national Force, and unite all Ranks of Your Majesty's faithful Subjects in giving signal Proofs, to all the World, of a Loyalty and Zeal which must render us safe at Home and respected Abroad.

His MAJESTY's most Gracious ANSWER.

MY LORDS,

I Thank you for this loyal and dutiful Address: The Zeal you shew for My Honour and Support, and the Firmness and Vigour you manifest in the present Conjuncture, cannot fail to produce the best Effects; It must add Confidence to My People, and encourage animated Efforts to withstand, oppose, and subdue, every hostile Attack upon the Honour and Interests of My Kingdoms.

FINIS.